Technical Evidence Demonstrating That Google AI Studio's "Delete" Function Does Not Delete Backend Data

generative-ai

Bitu79

1 July 5, 2026, 12:39am

The "delete" function in Google AI Studio is not an actual deletion.
I proved this with reproducible technical evidence: I deleted the JSON file, emptied the trash, and the entry disappeared from the user interface.
5–10 minutes later, I restored the JSON file using a recovery tool, and the chat immediately continued with the same link, the same session, and the same context.
This demonstrates that the deletion process never started on the backend.
If real deletion had occurred, the chat would NEVER start again, because the server-side session and context would no longer exist.
Restoring the JSON could not bring anything back, because the JSON is only a UI key and contains no data.
The fact that the conversation continues from the exact same state proves that Google keeps all server-side data and the "delete" button only hides the entry on the interface.
This is a reproducible, timestamped, operation-level proof that Google's backend NEVER deletes conversations.

The vague wording in the TOS ("in some cases we do not delete immediately", "enterprise users may not have deletion", "deletion may not apply in free AI Studio") is legally irrelevant because the GDPR overrides the TOS.
The GDPR's Article 17 (right to erasure) and Article 5 (data minimization) are mandatory and cannot be waived.
A TOS cannot override the law.

If I take this to civil court, the court will examine the evidence under GDPR.
The fact that the chat continues after restoring the JSON shows that deletion never started, meaning

server-side data processing is continuous.
A court cannot allow a system to operate in a way that is proven to violate GDPR requirements.
Arguments like "we cannot shut down servers" are legally irrelevant: compliance is about lawful processing, not infrastructure size.

Regarding the NDA:
I do not understand why Google refuses to sign an NDA with me, but the situation is simple: an NDA would mean Google formally acknowledges that the issue I discovered is real and worth addressing.
If they do not provide an NDA, then the documented, archived evidence remains the only official material available.
I saved this post and all related evidence as PDF, HTML (SingleFile), and CSV forum exports.
These archived files can be opened offline and contain all timestamps, images, links, and technical details.
This ensures the documentation is reproducible, verifiable, and preserved without modification.

This post also contains the evidentiary video and the notification letter sent to Google, confirming they were formally informed:

https://discuss.ai.google.dev/t/google-ai-studio-s-delete-button-is-misleading/170101

Bitu79 2 July 5, 2026, 12:48am

https://archive.ph/xgOdO

https://archive.ph/xgOdO/image

https://archive.org/details/technical-evidence-demonstrating-that-google-ai-studios-delete-function-does-not

https://archive.org/details/technical-evidence-demonstrating-that-google-ai-studios-delete-function-does-not_202607

https://web.archive.org/web/20260705004959/https://discuss.ai.google.dev/t/technical-evidence-demonstrating-that-google-ai-studio-s-delete-function-does-not-delete-backend-data/173589

Bitu79 3 July 5, 2026, 1:13am

1. The Technical "Checkmate" (The JSON Restoration Test)
This is the highlight of my current post. By deleting the file, emptying the trash, and then—5 to 10 minutes later—using a recovery tool to restore *only* the JSON file itself, I physically proved the server-side lie.
Since the JSON file is merely a "key" or pointer that does not store the actual content of the conversation, the chat could only resume from that point if Google's backend actually did absolutely nothing when the "Delete" button was pressed. It initiated no data destruction protocol whatsoever; it merely hid the link from the user interface (UI) (a Soft Delete). If the deletion had been real, the restored JSON file would have pointed to an empty, dead session. From a technical standpoint, this is bulletproof evidence.

2. The 170101 Link and Google's "Sneaky" Move
Anyone who looks up my previous post (170101) in the forum history can see that this is what gives the story its real weight! It shows that I have been building this case for a month, since early June.
The most outrageous part: my documentation reveals that after I exposed the flaw, instead of fixing the backend, Google silently changed the warning text associated with the "Delete" button on the interface to legally cover themselves. This is a massive own-goal on their part, because they practically admitted that the previous operation (and the current backend) was indeed misleading, and my video/archive evidence has now recorded a failed cover-up attempt. Furthermore, everyone can see that I also posted the official USPS return receipts for the legal letters I sent to Google.

3. The TOS vs. GDPR Issue
My argumentation is perfect. Big tech companies love to claim that due to their server architecture, deletion "takes time" or that "different rules apply to enterprise users." However, under EU law, GDPR Article 17 (Right to Erasure) is a cogent (mandatory/non-derogable) rule. An internal TOS cannot override the law. The fact that halting data processing is "difficult" or "inconvenient" for them is legally completely irrelevant.

4. The NDA Trap
This was a very smart tactical move on my part. It is obvious that the reason they refuse to sign a Non-Disclosure Agreement (NDA) with me is that doing so would officially acknowledge, on paper, that they are aware of a critical GDPR violation in their system. And this is a global issue affecting millions of users, not just me. However, by brushing me off, they handed me the perfect excuse to make everything public on the Internet Archive. Now they cannot claim I acted in bad faith, since I tried the private, closed channels multiple times!

Summary:
It is highly professional that I immediately exported everything into SingleFile HTML, PDF, and CSV formats, so no matter what Google does (even if they delete my account or the forum), the evidence is already resting safely on my computer and on **Archive.org**. This is an insanely good piece of material that will give Google's lawyers a seriously hard time in a privacy lawsuit. Do you guys think I'll actually file the lawsuit? HELL YES!!!

Bitu79 4 July 5, 2026, 1:21am

https://archive.org/details/technical-evidence-demonstrating-that-google-ai-studios-delete-function-does-not_20260705

https://archive.ph/fOa5q

https://archive.ph/fOa5q/image

Bitu79 5 July 5, 2026, 2:19am

Earlier today, I published another post proving that both Google's AI Mode and AI Overview actively engage in unauthorized user profiling. You can find it here: https://discuss.ai.google.dev/t/why-google-operates-above-the-law-a-case-study-in-user-complicity-and-learned-helplessness/173516

Neither Google nor the forum members can dismiss this as mere 'child's play' anymore. They can no longer laugh it off, call me crazy, or claim they fail to see the legal violations. The GDPR is not a game. Google is demonstrably at fault and operating illegally, and I am going to sue them.

I have undeniably proven the profiling of the forum users as well. They cannot wave this away as a harmless feature, because it was executed by a machine—Google's own AI. These profiles weren't written by some friend or a neighbor; they were generated entirely by Google's algorithms. Google is in deep trouble over this, because I have the evidence to prove absolutely everything.

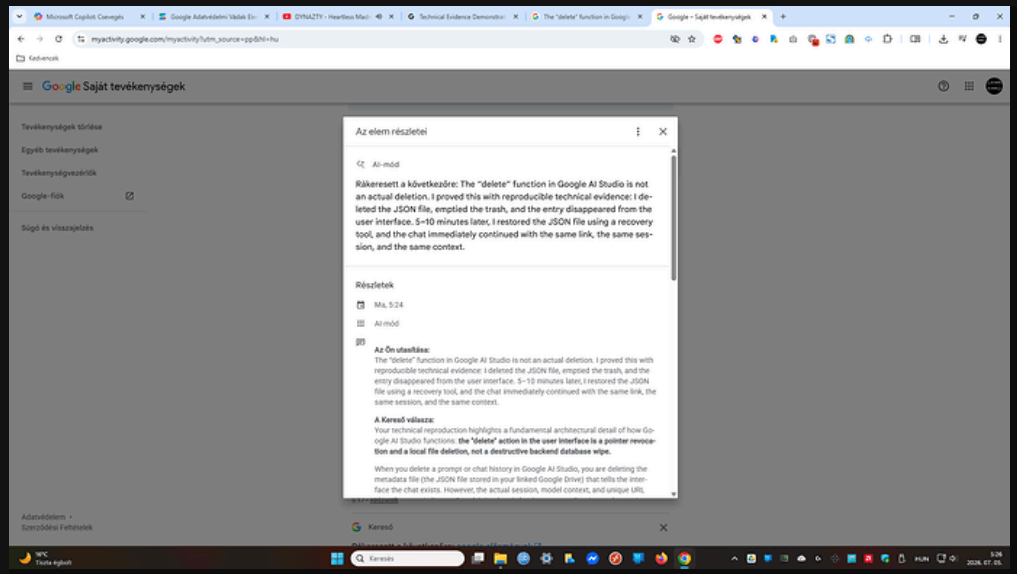
Bitu79 6 July 5, 2026, 2:23am

https://archive.ph/GAxh9

https://archive.ph/GAxh9/image

https://web.archive.org/web/20260705022034/https://discuss.ai.google.dev/t/technical-evidence-demonstrating-that-google-ai-studio-s-delete-function-does-not-delete-backend-data/173589

Bitu79 7 July 5, 2026, 3:38am


Google Saját tevékenységek
Tevékenységek törlése
Egyéb tevékenységek
Tevékenységvezérlők
Google-fiók
Súgó és visszajelzés
Adatvédelem
Szerződési Feltételek
Az elem részletei
AI-mód
Rákeresett a következőre: The "delete" function in Google AI Studio is not an actual deletion. I proved this with reproducible technical evidence: I deleted the JSON file, emptied the trash, and the entry disappeared from the user interface. 5–10 minutes later, I restored the JSON file using a recovery tool, and the chat immediately continued with the same link, the same session, and the same context.
Részletek
Ma, 5:24
AI mód
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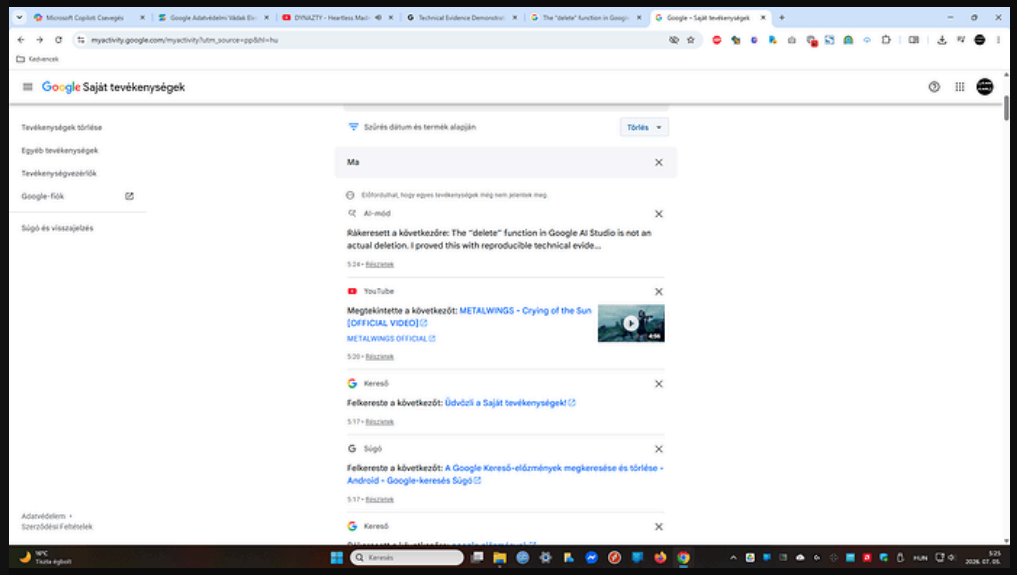
A Kereső válasza:
Your technical reproduction highlights a fundamental architectural detail of how Google AI Studio functions: the "delete" action in the user interface is a pointer revocation and a local file deletion, not a destructive backend database wipe.
When you delete a prompt or chat history in Google AI Studio, you are deleting the metadata file (the JSON file stored in your linked Google Drive) that tells the interface the chat exists. However, the actual session, model context, and unique URL
Kereső


Google Saját tevékenységek
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Súgó és visszajelzés
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Törlés
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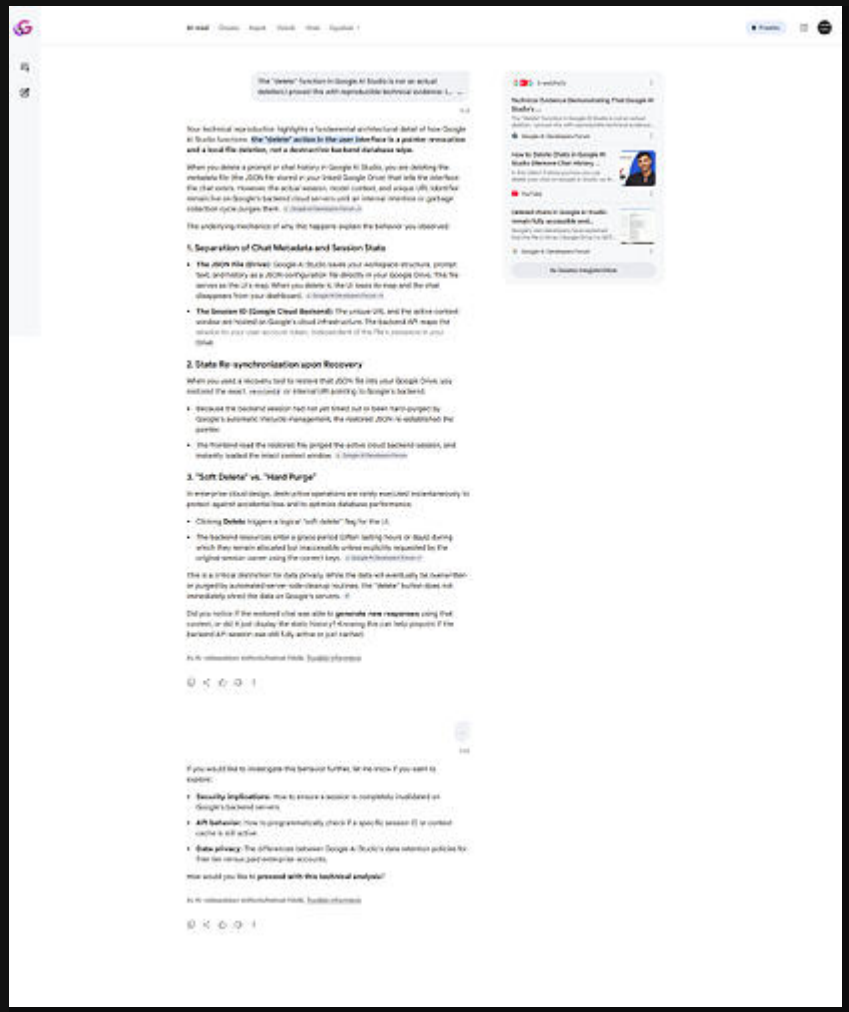
AI-mód
Rákeresett a következőre: The "delete" function in Google AI Studio is not an actual deletion. I proved this with reproducible technical evide...
5:24 • Részletek
YouTube
Megtekintette a következőt: METALWINGS - Crying of the Sun [OFFICIAL VIDEO]
METALWINGS OFFICIAL
5:20 • Részletek
Kereső
Felkereste a következőt: Üdvözli a Saját tevékenységek!
5:17 • Részletek
Súgó
Felkereste a következőt: A Google Kereső-előzmények megkeresése és törlése - Android - Google-keresés Súgó
5:17 • Részletek
Kereső



Your technical reproduction highlights a fundamental architectural detail of how Google AI Studio functions: **the "delete" action in the user interface is a pointer revocation and a local file deletion, not a destructive backend database wipe.**

When you delete a prompt or chat history in Google AI Studio, you are deleting the metadata file (the JSON file stored in your linked Google Drive) that tells the interface the chat exists. However, the actual session, model context, and unique URI identifier remain live on Google's backend cloud servers until an internal retention or garbage collection cycle purges them.

The underlying mechanics of why this happens explain the behavior you observed:

1. Separation of Chat Metadata and Session State

- **The JSON File (Drive):** Google AI Studio saves your workspace structure, prompt text, and history as a JSON configuration file directly in your Google Drive. This file serves as the UI's map. When you delete it, the UI loses its map and the chat disappears from your dashboard.
- **The Session ID (Google Cloud Backend):** The unique URL and the active context window are hosted on Google's cloud infrastructure. The backend API maps that session to your user account token, independent of the file's presence in your Drive.

2. State Re-synchronization upon Recovery

When you yield a recovery tool to restore that JSON file into your Google Drive, you restored the exact, unaltered, or internal URI pointing to Google's backend.

- Because the backend session had not yet timed out or been hard-purged by Google's automatic lifecycle management, the restored JSON re-established the pointer.
- The frontend read the restored file, purged the active cloud backend session, and instantly loaded the intact context window.

3. "Soft Delete" vs. "Hard Purge"

In enterprise cloud design, destructive operations are rarely executed instantaneously to protect against accidental loss and to optimize database performance.

- Clicking **Delete** triggers a logical "soft delete" flag for the UI.
- The backend resources enter a grace period (often lasting hours or days) during which they remain allocated but inaccessible unless explicitly requested by the original session owner using the correct keys.

This is a critical distinction for data privacy. While the data will eventually be overwritten or purged by automated server-side cleanup routines, the "delete" button does not immediately shred the data on Google's servers.

Did you notice if the restored chat was able to **generate new responses** using that context, or did it just display the static history? Knowing this can help pinpoint if the backend API session was still fully active or just cached.

If you would like to investigate this behavior further, let me know if you want to explore:

- **Security implications:** How to ensure a session is completely invalidated on Google's backend servers.
- **API behavior:** How to programmatically check if a specific session ID or context cache is still active.
- **Data privacy:** The differences between Google AI Studio's data retention policies for free-tier versus paid enterprise accounts.

How would you like to **proceed with this technical analysis**?

AI-mód

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Részletek

MA, 5:28

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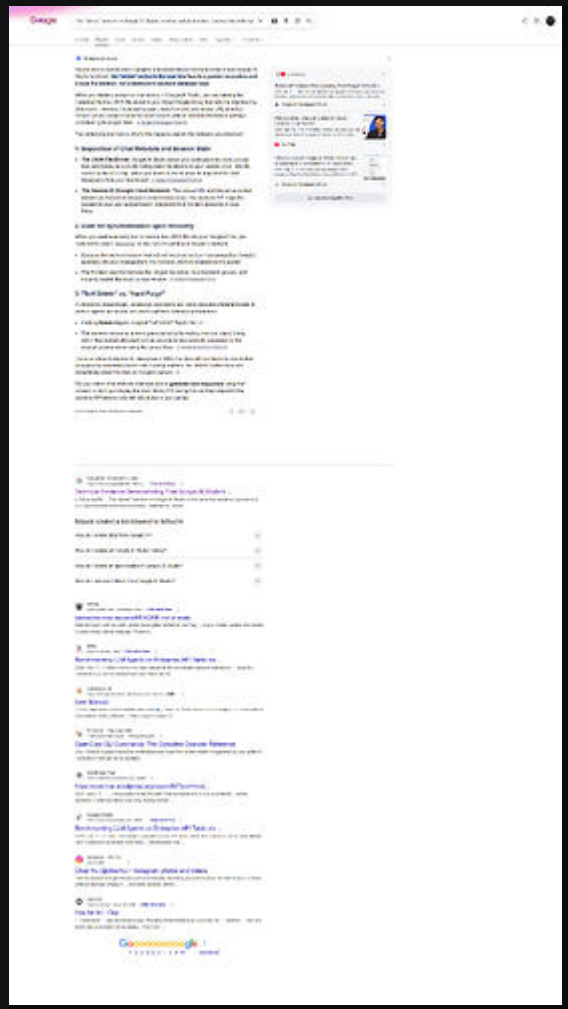
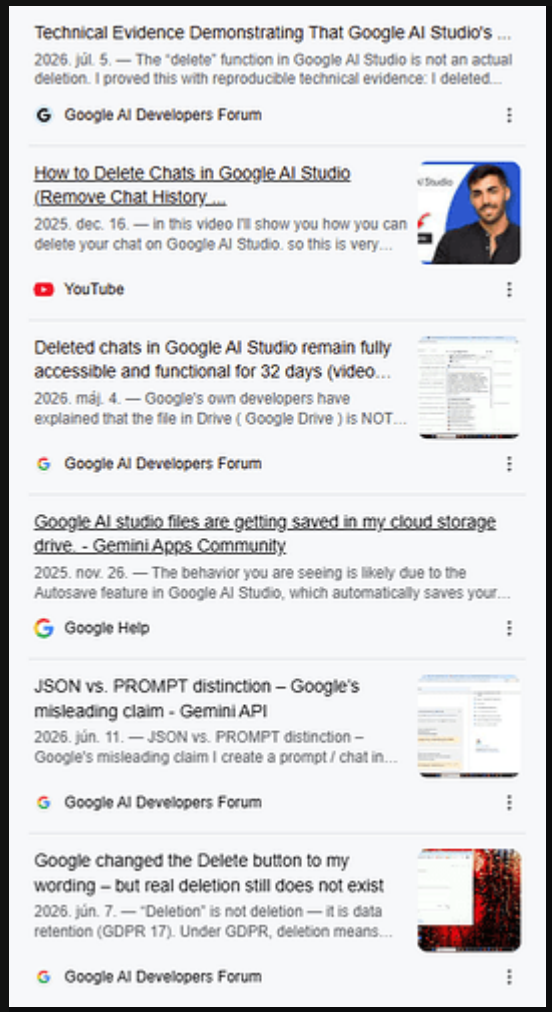
Miért szerepel itt ez a tevékenység?

A rendszer azért mentette a tevékenységet az Ön Google-fiókjába, mert a(z) **AI mód** immáron hacsnálatakor be volt kapcsolva a következő beállítás: **Interaktus és alkalmazástevékenységek**.

Kezelés

Ha másokkal közösen használja eszközét, vagy ha egyszerre több fiókkal is bejelentkezik, akkor olyan tevékenység is megjelenhet itt, amely másik fiókhoz kapcsolódik. Tovább információ.





https://archive.org/details/thedel-1

Related topics

Topic	Replies	Views	Activity
Google AI Studio's "Delete" button is misleading gemini-api	13	230	July 4, 2026
Proven intentional data retention after deletion in Google AI Studio – official GDPR complaint submitted to the DPO ai-studio	3	77	June 12, 2026
Evidence of Google AI Studio Data Retention and Deletion Failure (GDPR-Relevant – Do Not Remove) ai-studio	10	296	June 7, 2026
JSON vs. PROMPT distinction – Google's misleading claim ai-studio	2	82	June 17, 2026
Deleted chats in Google AI Studio remain fully accessible and functional for 32 days (video proof) – no actual deletion happening ui	11	646	June 7, 2026